

rural life, in addition to the magnificent mountain and ocean scenery," qualities that continue to draw people to this treasured community on California's South Coast.

Over the last century, the Carpinteria Valley Chamber of Commerce has diligently served the Carpinteria Valley business community through its commitment to developing strong and viable local businesses by providing opportunities for business education and networking, promoting tourism, and advocating on behalf of business interests. They have also worked closely with the City of Carpinteria to create strong business outreach and community support.

This Chamber is a valued organization of businesses united to create a strong local economy and a positive quality of life by representing business to government, promoting the community, providing networking opportunities and supporting a sustainable future for business and economic development.

Mr. Speaker, it has been my honor to represent this outstanding group of business and community leaders over the years. Again, I congratulate them on a century of achievements and outstanding contributions to our community, enhancing the life of all Carpentierians and helping our local businesses stay strong.

RECOGNIZING JANUARY AS NATIONAL STALKING AWARENESS MONTH

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the month of January as National Stalking Awareness Month. This month is dedicated to increasing public understanding of the crime of stalking as well as helping to improve law enforcement's response to stalking in an attempt to hopefully putting an end to this terrifying crime. As a nation, we need to take the necessary action to prevent stalking before it occurs.

Unlike other crimes, stalking is not a single, easily identifiable crime, but a series of acts directed at a single person with the intention to cause fear through threats, intimidation and/or nonconsensual or unwanted communication. Victims of stalking face profound consequences, such as high levels of stress, fear and anxiety.

Stalking is a dangerous reality that affects thousands of Americans every year. In the United States, stalking affects 3.4 million people each year. Further, one in six women and one in 19 men in the United States have been victimized by stalking at some point in their lifetime.

January offers time to focus on a crime that is vastly under-reported. Due to threats, intimi-

dation, fear of retribution, or lack of an adequate support system, a large number of victims do not report stalking to law enforcement. Stalking is often a precursor to more serious crimes and it can be dangerous if left unreported. If you or someone you know is the victim of stalking, I urge you to come forward and get the protection you need.

As of September 1993, all 50 states and the District of Columbia had passed some type of anti-stalking legislation and in 1996, Congress passed the federal stalking law. This is great progress. Until the passage of anti-stalking laws, victims had few remedies and limited options.

The Obama administration has taken significant strides to identify and prevent stalking. President Obama was the first President to proclaim January as National Stalking Awareness Month and his administration has gone to great lengths to create a strategy to combat violence against women. In addition, stalking is one of the four crimes addressed in the Violence Against Women Act and the Department of Justice Office of Violence Against Women is a leader in the fight to reduce stalking. While we are currently taking steps in the right direction, there is room for progress.

I would like to take time to commend Peace over Violence and Safe at Home, for all the work they do to protect victims in my district. Peace over Violence is a non-profit organization dedicated to preventing stalking and domestic violence in the Los Angeles area. Peace over Violence offers Emergency, Intervention, Prevention, Education and Advocacy services as well as a 24-hour hotline for victims. Safe at Home, California's address confidentiality program, is administered by the California Secretary of State's office. The program provides a free post office box and mail forwarding services designed to help stalking and other domestic violence victims. Safe at Home offers services that include confidentiality for children, as well as confidential name change, voter registration and the suppression of Department of Motor Vehicle records. Both Peace over Violence and Safe at Home provide victims of stalking with protection, relief and a sense of safety.

Stalking is serious, unpredictable and can often escalate over time. To effectively respond to stalking, we must do more to promote public awareness about stalking and support victims of this crime. Let us work together to advance protection services for stalking victims and expanded educational services. The more people learn to recognize stalking, the warning signs and the dangers, the better chance we have to protect victims and prevent tragedies.

Mr. Speaker, as I rise today to observe National Stalking Awareness Day, I encourage all Americans to come together to prevent stalking before it occurs and I encourage victims to get help by reporting harassment and stalking to the proper authorities.

CONGRATULATING THE
KO'OLAUPOKO HAWAIIAN CIVIC
CLUB ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club on the 75th anniversary of its founding and to recognize its impressive contributions to the preservation and perpetuation of Native Hawaiian culture. Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club has a distinguished record of service to the ahupua'a of Kāne'ohe, Heāiea, Kahalu'u, Waihe'e, Ka'alaea, Waihole, Waikane, Hakipu'u, and Kualoa on the windward side of the island of O'ahu. The civic club, along with community and other local partners in Hawaii, has planned a year-long celebration featuring the musical, natural, and cultural heritage of O'ahu's windward coast.

Our civic clubs have played an important role in the history of Hawaii, dating back to the first Hawaiian civic club founded in 1918 by Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalaniano'ole. He was a stalwart figure in Hawaiian history, a tireless advocate for the Hawaiian people and served in this very chamber as Hawaii's delegate to Congress from 1902 to 1922. Carrying on Prince Kuhio's legacy and strong belief in civic duty and grassroots activism, more than sixty Hawaiian civic clubs have been established in Hawaii and the continental United States. These clubs proudly keep Hawaiian traditions, language, and culture alive and work to improve the conditions of the Native Hawaiian people and our island communities.

Founded by community leaders George Ke'ehukalani Cypher, Johnny Townsend, Isaac Kakanui, and Solomon Halualani, as well as renowned hula master Kau'i Zuttermeister and Honolulu City Planner George Houghtailing, the Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club, has taken its core value of mālama—or to take care—to heart. Through its efforts to maintain ancient heiau (sacred Hawaiian religious sites), restore threatened wetlands, provide annual scholarships for Native Hawaiian students, and many other initiatives, the Ko'olaupoko Civic Club continues to support the culture and heritage of Native Hawaiians. It's only fitting that the club was awarded the Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalaniano'ole Award as the "most outstanding Hawaiian Civic Club" at the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs' 2011 Convention.

Congratulations to the members of the Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club for all their accomplishments, their dedication to the betterment of our community and continuing the civic clubs' heritage of service.

Mahalo nui loa (thank you very much).